

T O W A R D S   G L O B A L   E M I N E N C E



**Host**    Kyung Hee University System  
**Organizer**    Global Academy for Future Civilizations



## The Era of Urgency, a New Horizon for Political Norms

September 22(Tue)–23(Wed) 2020  
Kyung Hee University System

## Objective

### “The Era of Urgency, a New Horizon for Political Norms”

Has an era of apocalyptic calamities dawned upon humanity? The answer still eludes us as the pale horseman of a global pandemic is wreaking havoc and unfolding suffering all over the planet earth. Humanity has united in one mind, yearning for “prompt resolution of the plague and the restoration of daily life.” But, the complete cure back to wholesomeness is not yet within our grasp.

The rise of another horseman that threatens our daily lives has been announced elsewhere. Earlier this year, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the “Doomsday Clock” to mere 100 seconds before midnight, the closest ever in history. For the first time over seven decades of its history, the clock hand that warns humanity of their impending doom has been changed from a minute to a second. That humanity has only seconds before their obliteration so dramatically demonstrates how tenuous our existence on this planet currently is. In addition to the existing threat of nuclear annihilation and destructive cutting-edge technologies, the unprecedented acceleration of climate change in the recent years is the main actor that hastened the “Doomsday Clock” to the last 100 seconds. Compounded by the ongoing global pandemic, the dire global threat to humanity is an urgent crisis for all of us who live in this era.

Is humanity truly faced with the critical existential threat as lethal as proclaimed by the international society? Does humanity have no other choice but to “surrender or hope” as warned by the United Nations last year? Prior to answering that question, we must consider the fact that humanity is now entering a dreadful era of extreme uncertainty, that no human memory has experienced before, frequently referred to as the “Sixth Mass Extinction.”

On the 39<sup>th</sup> UN International Day of Peace, Kyung Hee University System will explore the political truth of these key global agendas. Building upon a clear understanding of the mechanism of the climate change, the fundamental issues of awareness and politics will be discussed: Why, despite the long standing objection of the academia and the constant warning of the international society, has the political leadership of the world collectively failed to act in a cooperative attempt to neutralize these common and genuine threats? Is it because of the national interest taking precedence over the survival of entire humanity? Or is the current political leadership structure simply incapable of dealing with global threats that far exceed the immediate domestic circumstances? Where is the social consciousness now heading, which often steered the force of history like a railway signaller when the political leadership is confounded?

Under the title of “The Era of Urgency, A New Horizon for Political Norms,” this year’s Kyung Hee Roundtable Conference in commemoration of the UN International Day of Peace will illuminate these questions. We look forward to the great participation and support of those who are interested in future society and the outlook for the young generation.

## The Background of the International Day of Peace

The International Day and Year of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations under the proposal of Kyung Hee University. At the 6<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) in 1981, Kyung Hee University proposed the founding of the UN International Day and Year of Peace. The proposal was submitted to the UN as the Costa Rican Resolution by IAUP, and the UN established the International Day and Year of Peace at the 36<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly on November 30 of the same year.

The UN General Assembly declared in its resolution 36/67 that the International Day of Peace has been established to “commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples,” and invited “all Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, peoples and individuals to commemorate in an appropriate manner the International Day of Peace, especially through all means of education.” Since then the UN proclaimed every third Tuesday of September as the ‘International Day of Peace’ (fixed as September 21<sup>st</sup> in 2001) and 1986 as the ‘International Year of Peace.’

The forecast of IAUP that the weakening of the Cold War system would contribute to world peace was timely. At the time when the International Day and Year of Peace was being proposed, the tension between East and West also faced a new era with the proclamation of the International Year of Peace. On January 1, 1986, US President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev shared New Year’s greetings of peace to each other’s nation. The two countries then held disarmament talks to ban all ballistic missiles and made efforts to end regional conflicts, paving the way for peace.

## Program

Theme The Era of Urgency, a New Horizon for Political Norms  
 Date September 22(Tue)–23(Wed)  
 Host Kyung Hee University System  
 Organizer Global Academy for Future Civilizations  
 Cooperator Kyung Hee Cyber University

<b>Opening Ceremony</b>  September 22(Tue) 09:00~09:30	<b>Opening</b>	
	<b>Overview of the UN International Day of Peace</b>	
	<b>Opening Address</b>	<b>Inwon Choue</b> Chancellor, Kyung Hee University System
	<b>Congratulatory Message</b>	<b>Irina Bokova</b> Former Director General of UNESCO
<b>Special Lecture Special Dialogue</b>  September 22(Tue) 09:30~12:00	<b>Lecture</b>	Topic <b>Reclaiming Cooperation in a World of Competition</b>  Lecturer <b>Naomi Oreskes</b> Professor, Harvard University
	<b>Dialogue</b>	Topic <b>The Era of Urgency, a New Horizon for Political Norms</b>  Chair <b>Byongjin Ahn</b> Professor, Kyung Hee University  Panelists <b>Inwon Choue</b> Chancellor, Kyung Hee University System <b>Naomi Oreskes</b> Professor, Harvard University <b>John Ikenberry</b> Professor, Princeton University/ Eminent Scholar, Kyung Hee University
	Q&A	

<b>Roundtable Conference</b>  September 23(Wed) 10:00~12:00	<b>Topic</b>	<b>For a Great Transformation in Life to Overcome the Existential Crisis</b>
	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Gi Bung Kwon</b> Rector of the GIP
	<b>Panelists</b>	<b>Scott Sagan</b> Professor, Stanford University <b>Yong Shin Park</b> Honorary Professor, Yonsei University <b>Jae Ryong Song</b> Professor, Kyung Hee University <b>Sejong Seo</b> Student, Kyung Hee University

※ The recorded conference will be available on the Kyung Hee University website.

## Guest Speakers



### Irina Bokova

- Miwon Scholar of Practice, Kyung Hee University
- Member of the Board of Ban Ki Moon Center for Global Citizens
- Director General, UNESCO(2009-2017)
- MSc in international relations, Moscow State Institute of International Relations(1976)



### Naomi Oreskes

- Henry Charles Lea Professor of the History of Science, Harvard University
- Professor, Department of History & Program in Science Studies, University of California, San Diego(2005-2013)
- Stephen H. Schneider Award for Outstanding Climate Science Communication(2016)
- PhD in Geological Research and History of Science, Stanford University(1990)



### John Ikenberry

- Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University
- Global Eminence Scholar, Kyung Hee University
- Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- PhD in Political Science, The University of Chicago(1985)



### Scott Sagan

- Professor, Department of Political Science, Stanford University
- Chairman, Committee on International Security Studies, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Science and Security Board of Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
- PhD in Political Science, Harvard University(1983)



### Yong Shin Park

- Honorary Professor of Sociology at Yonsei University
- Chairman of the board of directors of the Green Education Center
- Chairman of the Sustainable Development Committee of the Seoul Green Seoul Citizens' Committee
- PhD in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley(1975)



### Inwon Choue

- Chancellor, Kyung Hee University System
- President, Kyung Hee University(2006~2018)
- Co-chair, World Civic Forum(2009)
- Ph.D in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania(1988)

## Opening Ceremony

The “midnight” of humanity is never far away—merely 1 minute 40 seconds left. The symbolic Doomsday Clock, which indicates how close our planet is to destruction, advanced to 11:58:20 in January 2020. The Clock is now the closest to Doomsday that it has ever been since its creation in 1947. Frequent signs of anomalies all over the planet and within humanity are signaling urgency regarding the time left for us. Global challenges such as the climate crisis, peril of war, and outbreak of novel diseases are hindering the sustainability of human civilization. If the future of humankind depends on our own consensus, how can we form reasonable public opinions? At this time of deepening tension, as indicated by the Doomsday Clock, we will determine how urgent the crises are and seek the discourse of transition to overcome our impending danger.

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## Special Lecture

We are facing an irony in modern civilization that resulted from both the scientific and political revolutions. The mechanistic worldview and the principles of the free market ideology are no longer valid. The relentless push for development and growth, which continues to destroy ecosystems, combined with self-righteous humans and their infinite competition, will result in the end of civilization. There is not much time left. We must stop here and take a different track. One option is to establish a system for cooperation over competition.

<b>Special Lecture</b>  September 22(Tue) 09:30~10:00	Topic	<b>Reclaiming Cooperation in a World of Competition</b>
	Lecturer	<b>Naomi Oreskes</b> Professor, Harvard University

## Special Dialogue

The existential crisis of humankind demands a new horizon for political norms. We holds a special talk to urgently discuss innovative imaginations and practical solutions for global citizens and future generations. Three of our brightest minds, who have been passionately exploring topics in technography, metapolitics, and international relations during the Great Transition, have been invited to talk about fundamental issues of perception and politics that this generation must address together. Why are we not seeing the reality of formidable global crises as it is, despite ceaseless questions and warnings from academia and the international community? What sort of epistemological transition is needed? Now that the conflict among dominant countries has entered a new phase, where are political structures heading? Is there any way to garner a political will to tackle this emergency, instead of succumbing to the threat? The set of questions that this talk covers are about urgent tasks that require our answers as well.

<b>Special Dialogue</b>  September 22(Tue) 10:00~12:00	Topic	<b>The Era of Urgency, a New Horizon for Political Norms</b>
	Chair	<b>Byongjin Ahn</b> Professor, Kyung Hee University
	Panelists	<b>Inwon Choue</b> Chancellor, Kyung Hee University System <b>Naomi Oreskes</b> Professor, Harvard University <b>John Ikenberry</b> Professor, Princeton University/ Eminent Scholar, Kyung Hee University
	Q&A	

## Roundtable Conference

Humanity is now facing great crises that are unprecedented. The COVID-19 pandemic directly affects humanity's global reality, raising future uncertainties anew. Perhaps this is a warning about the climate-crisis-driven cataclysmic changes in the environment. A crisis that threatens human civilization requires innovative countermeasures that go beyond the usual responses. It is high time for us to reinvent our lifestyles in every way so as to secure our future while raising awareness about the global emergency. The discussions will search for answers to the following questions: (1) How can we create new norms and lifestyles that help pioneer a different, better future for humankind?, (2) What roles do the global civil society and politicians play in this process?, and (3) What kinds of changes can universities lead through education?

<b>Roundtable Conference</b>  September 23(Wed) 10:00~12:00	Topic	<b>For a Great Transformation in Life to Overcome the Existential Crisis</b>
	Chair	<b>Gi Bung Kwon</b> Rector of the GIP
	Panelists	<b>Scott Sagan</b> Professor, Stanford University <b>Yong Shin Park</b> Honorary Professor, Yonsei University <b>Jae Ryong Song</b> Professor, Kyung Hee University <b>Sejong Seo</b> Student, Kyung Hee University

## History of Peace BAR Festival

### - From Korean Peninsula to Body, Civilization, and the Cosmos

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace promulgated by the UN at its 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1981, Kyung Hee University has been hosting Peace BAR Festival every year since 1982. The themes of the past conferences are as follows:

<b>1982~1990</b>	1982	Crisis and Peace in Contemporary World
	1983	World Peace: Is It Possible?
	1984	World Peace Through the UN
	1985	UN: The Past, Present and Future
	1986	Search for Causes of International Conflicts and Ways to Their Solutions
	1987	The Changing International Environment and Korean Peninsula in the Late 1980s
	1988	The North-East Asian Era and the Roles of Korea, China and Japan in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
	1989	Peace Beyond the East-West Conflict: Northeast Asian Security and World Peace in the 1990s
	1990	The Search for a New World Peace Order with Reference to the Changes in the East-West Relations
	<b>1991~2000</b>	1991
1992		Democracy and New International Order in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
1993		Peace in the Northeast Asia: Toward Greater Regional Cooperation
1994		Restoration of Morality and Humanity
1995		Tolerance, Restoration of Morality, and Humanity
1996		Peace Strategies for Global Community and the Role of the UN in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
1997		Visions and Realities in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century: The Role of East Asia
1998		Global Visions Toward the Next Millennium: Modern Civilization and Beyond
1999		Will World Peace Be Achievable in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century?
2000		Global Governance in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century

<b>2001~2010</b>	2001	Toward a Global Common Society Through Dialogue Among Civilizations
	2002	A Global Common Society Through Pax U
	2003	Building a Global Common Society Through Neo-Renaissance
	2004	Urgent Tasks for Peace: Overcoming Terrorism
	2005	After Ideology: The 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Talks
	2006	Reinventing Universality for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century: Beyond Freedom and Equality
	2007	Transformative Challenges: In Search of New Humanity and Community
	2008	Future Civilization, Future University: A New Horizon for Knowledge and Praxis
	2009	Kyung Hee Peace Workshop
	2010	The Body and Civilization: A New Horizon
<b>2011~2019</b>	2011	The Body and Catastrophe: Towards a New Utopia
	2012	Humanity, Politics and Civilizations
	2013	Civilizations and Higher Education: In Search of Great Learning
	2014	Cosmic Humanity and Public Practice
	2015	On the possibility of Common Values for Humanity
	2016	Transformative Challenge: The Worlds of Human Mind and Planetary Engagement
	2017	Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All
	2018	Korean Peninsula in the age of Transformative Civilization: Values and Philosophy
	2019	Do Future Generations have the Future?